

Message Text

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CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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P R 031055Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8474

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 16007

C O R R E C T E D COPY (FOR TAGS AND SUBJECT INFO PREVIOUSLY OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PINS PFOR MOPS ECON CB
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT -- DECEMBER 3, 1974

GENERAL

1. THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BY A NARROW TWO VOTE MARGIN IN EACH CASE, FIRST VOTED THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION PRIORITY OVER THE PRO-GRUNK VERSION AND THEN APPROVED THE FORMER. THE RESOVUTION, IN ITS FINAL FORM, URGES NATIONS HAVING INFLUENCE IN CAMBODIA TO ATTEMPT TO BRING THE CON-TENDING PARTIES TOGETHER, DIRECTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO USE HIS GOOD OFFICES FOR THE SAME END AND TO REPORT TO THE UNGA SESSION NEXT YEAR, AND STIPULATES THAT NO FURTHER UN ACTION BE TAKEN ON THE KHMER QUESTION UNTIL THE MEM-BERS HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO EXAMINE THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT. THE FAVORABLE RESULT WAS GREETED IN CAMBODIA BY RELIEF AND MIXED EXPECTATIONS FOR THE FUTURE; PRESIDENT LON NOL QUICKLY FOLLOWED UP BY PRAISING THE UN DECISION, REITERATING THE GKR OFFER TO NEGOTIATE
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WITHOUT CONDITIONS, AND EXTENDING AN INVITATION TO UNSYG WALDHEIM TO VISIT PHNOM PENH. SIHANOUK IN PEKING BRUSQUELY TURNED DOWN THE RESOLUTION, IN-COUNTRY FUNK PROPAGANDA CONTINUED TO RULE OUT NEGOTIATIONS OR COMPROMISE, AND GRUNK'S ASIAN ALLIES, INCLUDING THE PRC, CHIPPED IN WITH THEIR VERBAL SUPPORT. IN PHNOM PENH, MARKET PRICES REACTED FAVORABLY TO THE NEWS FROM NEW YORK, AND THE BLACK MARKET RATE FOR DOLLARS ALSO

DECLINED. ON THE BATTLEFIELD, FANK INFLICTED HEAVY LOSSES ON KC TROOPS NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH, BUT THE OTHER SIDE CUT ROUTE 5 BETWEEN BATTAMBANG AND KOMPONG CHHNANG.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

2. THE 29TH UNGA SESSION, AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF OFTEN BITTER DEBATE AND PROCEDURAL HAGGLING, APPROVED, IN A SERIES OF CLOSELY CONTESTED VOTES, THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION ON THE KHMER ISSUE. THE FINAL RESOLUTION, AS AMENDED BY SAUDI ARABIAN PERMREP BAROODY AND FURTHER REFINED IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN HIM AND THE FRIENDLY WORKING GROUP, POINTS OUT IN THE PREAMBLE THAT WHILE GRUNK "PRESIDED OVER" BY SIHANOUK EXERCISES AUTHORITY OVER A PORTION OF CAMBODIA, THE GKR CONTROLS A PREPONDERANT SHARE OF THE POPULATION. THE RESOLUTION APPEALS TO THE "POWERS" WITH INFLUENCE IN CAMBODIA TO USE THEIR GOOD OFFICES TO BRING ABOUT CONCILIATION BETWEEN THE TWO CONTENDING PARITIES; REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO LEND APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE TO THE TWO PARTIES AND TO REPORT ON THE RESULTS AT THE 30TH UNGA SESSION NEXT YEAR; AND RUTLES OUT FURTHER UN ACTION ON CAMBODIA UNTIL THE MEMBER STATES HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT.

3. DURING THE COURSE OF THE NOVEMBER 26-29 DISCUSSION, SIX SEPARATE VOTES WERE TAKEN, AMONG WHICH TWO WERE CRITICAL; (A) FIRST, THE ASSEMBLY VOTED BY 58 TO 56 WITH 20 ABSTENTIONS AND 3 ABSENCES TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION OVER THE PRO-GRUNK RESOLUTION, WHICH WOULD HAVE EXPELLED THE GKR FROM ITS UN SEAT AND GIVEN IT TO GRUNK; B) SECOND, IT APPROVED THE FRIENDLY
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RESOLUTION, AS AMENDED (SEE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH), BY 56 TO 54 WITH 24 ABSTENTIONS AND THREE ABSENCES. FOLLOWING THE FAVORABLE DECISION OF THE PLENARY, THE ONLY HURDLE NOW REMAINING FOR THE GKR IS THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE DELIBERATION AND REPORT. THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HAS NOT YET BEEN SCHEDULED AND THEREFORE THE TIMING FOR SUBMISSION OF ITS REPORT TO THE PLENARY IS NOT YET KNOWN.

4. THE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE VOTING WAS IN GREAT PART DUE TO THE GOOD ORGANIZATION, HARD WORK AND EFFECTIVE LOBBYING BY JAPAN AND THE ASEAN NATIONS, WITH THE UNITED STATES IN A LESS PROMINENT SUPPORTIVE ROLE. THE GKR DELEGATION ALSO ACQUITTED ITSELF WELL, WITH PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET, FOREIGN MINISTER KEUKY LIM AND

PERMREP CHHUT CHHOEUR BEING KEY FIGURES. THE FINAL VOTING BROUGHT SOME UNPLEASANT SURPRISES, WITH COUNTRIES EXPECTED TO BE IN THE GKR CAMP SUCH AS ECUADOR, GREECE AND PORTUGAL ABSTAINING. THESE DEFECTIONS, HOWEVER, WERE MORE THAN COUNTERBALANCED BY FAVORABLE VOTES FROM A NUMBER OF ARAB COUNTRIES INCLUDING MOROCCO AND TUNISIA, AND KEY ABSENCES BY EGYPT AND GHANA.

5. THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN ROME (SEE KHMER REPORT OF NOVEMBER 19, 1974) ULTIMATELY HANDLED CREDENTIALS MATTERS ROUTINELY, WITHOUT CONFLICT OVER THE KHMER QUESTION.

REACTION TO UN DECISION

6. FRIENDLY -- ON NOVEMBER 30, GKR PRESIDENT T LON NOL DELIVERED AN ADDRESS TO MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE PARLIAMENT, ARMED FORCES LEADERS AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. HE HAILED THE UN DECISION, THANKED THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAD WORKED FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION AND VOTED FOR IT, STRESSED THAT THE RESOLUTION IS ABOVE ALL A CALL FOR PEACE, AND TOOK THE OCCASION TO REITERATE THE GKR JULY 9 OFFER OF NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT PRIOR CONDITIONS. HE ADDED THAT THE GKR WOULD WELCOME A VISIT TO PHNOM PENH BY UNSYG WALDHEIM OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE TO CARRY OUT THE MANDATE IN THE RESOLUTION. PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET
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IS QUOTED IN A DECEMBER 2 VOA INTERVIEW AS HOPING THAT THE RESOLUTION WILL HAVE SOME INFLUENCE ON "OUR CAMBODIAN BROTHERS OF THE OTHER SIDE". THE STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN ON NOVEMBER 30 EXPRESSED U.S. PLEASURE AT THE OUTCOME OF THE VOTE, WELCOMED THE LON NOL STATEMENT AND VOICED THE HOPE THAT ALL UN MEMBER STATES WILL "NOW TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO URGING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT IN CAMBODIA AND SUPPORTING THE UN'S CALL FOR NEGOTIATIONS".

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 16007

7. REACTION INSIDE CAMBODIA WAS PREDICTABLY A MIXTURE OF RELIEF AND PLEASURE OVER THE CLOSE BUT FAVORABLE OUTCOME. SOME LOCAL PRESS ARTICLAJ HAILED THE "GREAT VICTORY" AT THE UN, BUT OTHER MORE SOBER COMMENTATORS NOTED THAT THE GKR CANNOT SIMPLY CONTENT ITSELF WITH THE UN RESULT BUT MUST MAKE PROGRESS INTERNALLY SO AS TO TAKE BEST ADVANTAGE OF IT. THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF SIHANOUK'S INITIAL BLASTS AFTER THE VOTE (SEE BELOW) AND SPECULATION THAT THE PRC MUST PLAY A KEY ROLE IN ANY SETTLEMENT. IN PRIVATE COMMENTS, KHMER HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR GRATIFICATION AND CAUTIOUS HOPE FOR THE FUTURE, BUT MANY ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

8. HOSTILE -- SIHANOUK DID NOT WASTE ANY TIME IN A QUICK, EMOTIONAL REJECTION OF THE UN RESOLUTION. ON NOVEMBER 28, HE SAID THAT TO ACCEPT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE "ARCH-CRIMINAL" GKR, "EVEN UNDER UN AUSPICES" WOULD BE TO ACCEPT U.S. NEO-COLONIALISM, AND PROMISED THAT THE ARMED STRUGGLE WILL CONTINUE FOR AS LONG AS 20 YEARS, "IF NECESSARY". IN A SUBSEQUENT, MORE CAREFULLY PREPARED STATEMENT ON NOVEMBER 30, THE PRINCE

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ALLEGED THAT THE UN VOTE SHOULD HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN A TIE (#)

AND THEIR VOTES THEREFORE SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN COUNTED. HE CALLED THE U.S. THE "SUPER-CRIMINAL ASSASSIN" OF CAMBODIA'S PEACE AND INDEPENDENCE, STYLED THE RESOLUTION THE "INFANT" OF U.S. IMPERIALISM, AND REITERATED THAT DESPITE ITS "DEEP RESPECT" FOR THE UN, GRUNK" FUNK WILL NEVER ACCEPT ITS MEDIATION, WHICH IS ALLEGEDLY DESIGNED TO BRING ABOUT CAMBODIA'S CAPITULATION TO THE U.S. A

FUNK IN-COUNTRY RADIO BROADCAST OF DECEMBER 1, WHILE NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING THE UN RESULT, REFERRED TO "MANEUVERS AND CONTEMPTIBLE TRICKS" AND REAFFIRMED THAT "WE WILL NOT ACCEPT COMPROMISE OR NEGOTIATIONS". SUBSEQUENTLY, THE CAMBODIAN INFORMATION AGENCY (AKI) ISSUED A "COMMUNIQUE" REAFFIRMING THE REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE OR COMPROMISE. IT ATTEMPTED, SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVELY, TO EXPLAIN THE UN OUTCOME AS THE RESULT OF U.S. PRESSURE, BRIBES, THREATS, ETC. AND POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THESE CONDITIONS IT IS "NOT SURPRISING" THAT THE U.S. HAS CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE IN THE UN OVER ITS "LACKEYS".

9. THE IMMEDIATE PRC REACTION IN THE UN WAS HARSH AND BITTER. PRC PERMREP HUANG HUA CALLED THE UN DECISION A "SHAME TO THE UNITED NATIONS" AND ADDED THAT THE "SO-CALLED RESOLUTION IS BUT A SCRAP OF PAPER" AND IS "ULTIMATELY NULL AND VOID AND MEANINGLESS". NCNA IN PEKING HIGHLIGHTED BOTH THE SIHANOUK AND HUANG HUA REACTIONS AND COMMENTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE "RESTORATION" OF GRUNK TO THE UN HAS BEEN "TEMPORARILY DELAYED" BY U.S. "MANOUVERS" THIS CAN NEVER PREVENT THE "ULTIMATE REALIZATION" OF THE "JUST DEMANDS" OF THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE.

10. HANOI ADDED ITS VOICE TO THE CHORUS, CONDEMNING WHAT IT CALLED AMERICAN "CUNNING MOVES" AT THE UN. A NHAN DAN ARTICLE ACCUSED THE U.S. OF MASTERMINDING THE CONFIDENTIAL

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VOTE ON BEHALF OF THE GKR "CORPSE" AND AFFIRMED ITS SUPPORT FOR RECENT SIHANOUK AND KHIEU SAMPHAN STATEMENTS ON THE UN ISSUE.

11. A SIHANOUK VISIT TO HIS OLD, TRUSTED FRIEND KIM-IL SUNG WAS ANNOUNCED ON NOVEMBER 29 AND THE PRINCE ARRIVED IN PYONGYANG ON DECEMBER 1. SIHANOUK RECEIVED THE USUAL RED CARPET TREATMENT FROM THE NORTH KOREAN LEADER, WHO DID HIS BIT TO BOOST GRUNK SPIRITS BY HOSTING A BANQUET, SUPPORTING SIHANOUK'S NOVEMBER 28 AND NOVEMBER 30 STATEMENTS ON THE UN AND PREDICTING INEVITABLE DOOM FOR LON NOL AND THE GKR.

GRUNK FUNK

12. IENG SARY AND HIS GRUNK ECONOMIC DELEGATION CONTINUED TO COOL THEIR HEELS IN CHINA VISITING A SERIES OF PROVINCIAL CAPITALS, RANGING AS FAR AFIELD AS HAINAN ISLAND (SEE PREVIOUS KHMER REPORTS).

13. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH RADIO PATHET LAO, PRINCE

SOUPHANOUVONG ATTEMPTED TO MOLLIFY HIS GRUNK ALLIES BY STATING THA THE LPF RECOGNIZES ONLY GRUNK AND THAT IT WILL NEVER ABANDON ITS STRUGGLE WITHIN THE PGNU TO EXPEL THE GRK DIPLOMATIC MISSION FROM LAOS. (AS REPORTED IN LAST WEEK'S KHMER REPORT, SOUPHANOUVONG HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD THE FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW THAT THE PGNU SHOULD RECOGNIZE BOTH COAMBIAN SIDES, WHICH BROUGHT FORTH AN ANGRY SIHANOUK RETORT)

ECONOMIC

14. PRICES IN PHNOM PENH RETAIL MARKETS GENERALLY DECLINED DURING THE WEEK, APPARENTLY IN RESPONSE TO THE FAVORABLE VOTE ON CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION AT THE UN. U.S. RICE, FRESH WATER FISH, PORK, CHICKEN, PAPAYAS, CABBAGE, SALT, SUGER AND MILK ALL SHOWED DECREASES RANGING FROM 3 TO 14 PERCENT DURING THE WEEK. BUCKING THE TREND AND REFLECTING SEASONAL ADJUSTMENTS WERE CHARCOAL, UP 13 PERCENT; BATTAMBANG RICE, UP 5 PERCENT; AND OCEAN
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FISH, UP 33 PERCENT. THE PRICES OF MOST OTHER GOODS REMAINED RELATIVELY UNCHANGED.

15. THE BLACK MARKET RATE DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY, FROM A RANGE OF 1970-2050 TO 1630-1700 RIELS PER DOLLAR DURING THE WEEK, WHILE ON DECEMBER 3, THE FREE MARKET (OFFICIAL) EXCHANGE RATE WAS INCREASED FROM 1610 TO 1700 RIELS PER DOLLAR. THUS, THE POINT HAS BEEN REACHED WHERE THE OFFICAL AND BLACK MARKET EXCHANGE RATES ARE ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT. BY COMPARISON, THE LOW SELLING RATE ON THE DECEMBER 2 NOUVEAU MARCHÉ (ESF) WAS 1800 AND THE HIGH SELLING RATE WAS 1900 RIELS PER DOLLAR.

NOTE BY OC/T: PHNOM PENH 16007/2 (#) OMISSION CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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ACTION EA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 16007

16. RICE STOCKS IN PHNOM PENH ON DECEMBER 1 TOTALLED 22,290 METRIC TONS, OR A 29-DAY SUPPLY AT THE 770 M/T OFFICIAL DAILY DISTRIBUTION RATE. STOCKS IN KOMPONG SOM ARE APPROXIMATELY 1,250 M/T. BETWEEN NOVEMBER 25 AND DECEMBER 1, 2,470 M/T OF BATTAMBANG RICE ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH, AND ONE MEKONG CONVOY ARRIVED FROM SOUTH VIETNAM WITH 2,213 M/T FURNISHED UNDER THE LOAN AGREEMENT WITH SAIGON. THIS WAS THE LAST SHIPMENT UNDER THE 40,000 M/T RICE LOAN AGREEMENT.

17. ON NOVEMBER 28, THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE FY 1975 CIP AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BY GKR AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVES. THE ADDITIONAL \$7.4 MILLION RAISES THE LEVEL FOR THE CURRENT YEAR TO \$31 MILLION.

MILITARY

18. FANK DEFENDERS AT THE GARRISON OF BARRONG KHNA KAR FOURTEEN KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH (SEE LAST WEEK'S KR) HAVE APPARENTLY SUCCEEDED IN DRIVING OFF THE ATTACKING KC FORCE. TWO POSITIONS THAT WERE LOST ON NOVEMBER 11 WERE RECAPTURED ON NOVEMBER 27 WITH THE CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMUNISTS SUSTAINING SIGNIFICANT LOSSES, AND BY THE END OF THE WEEK FANK WAS MOPPING UP SMALL POCKETS OF ENEMY RESISTANCE. THE FINAL REPORTED RESULTS OF THE TWENTY DAY BATTLE AROUND BARRONG KHNA KAR WERE 558 KC KILLED AND 9 POWS CAPTURED, WHILE FRIENDLY TROOPS SUFFERED 16 KILLED AND 185 WOUNDED. AIR SUPPORT HAS BEEN GOOD AND TOGETHER WITH ARTILLERY HAS ACCOUNTED FOR A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THE ENEMY LOSSES.

19. A CONVOY OF 210 TRUCKS AND 90 TRAILERS TRAVELLED TO KOMPONG CHHNANG FROM BATTAMBANG ALONG ROUTE 5 ON NOVEMBER 25 WITHOUT INCIDENT; 239 TRUCKS AND 129 TRAILERS MADE THE TRIP BACK TO BATTAMBANG SEVERAL DAYS LATER. HOWEVER, ON NOVEMBER 30 FANK DE-

FENDERS AT SEVERAL ROUTE 5 OUTPOSTS 45 KILOMETERS EAST OF PURSAT WERE FORCED TO WITHDRAW UNDER KC PRESSURE ALLOWING THE OTHER SIDE TO CONTROL TEN KILOMETERS OF THE ROAD. ELEMENTS OF THE 5TH BRIGADE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COUNTERATTACK, BUT LOST 2 M-113 PERSONNEL CARRIERS ON DECEMBER 1. THE NEXT DAY 100 KC WERE KILLED AT THE EAST END OF THE CUT, AGAIN LARGELY AS A RESULT OF AIR STRIKES.

20. TWO ROCKETS FIRED FROM NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH HIT INSIDE THE CITY ON DECEMBER 1, KILLING TWO CIVILIANS AND WOUNDING FOUR IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA. TWENTY-EIGHT OTHER ROCKETS WERE FIRED AT THE CAPITAL FROM THE SOUTH-EAST DURING THE WEEK, BUT ALL FELL OUTSIDE THE CITY AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO CASUALTIES REPORTED.

21. A MEKONG CONVOY ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH FROM SOUTH VIETNAM DURING THE WEEK, SUFFERING ONE ATTACK BY FIRE ENROUTE WITH NO CASUALTIES AND MINOR DAMAGE. TWO RIVER CONVOYS FROM PHNOM PENH TO KOMPONG CHHNANG ARRIVED WITHOUT INCIDENT, AND ANOTHER CONVOY DESTINED FOR SIEM REAP LEFT KOMPONG CHHNANG ON DECEMBER 1 AND IS DUE TO RETURN DECEMBER 3.
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